

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Final Official Action provided.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-3.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17 will have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-3 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of claims 1-3 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over PARKS et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,445). Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 17 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, and 17 is now moot.

The Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PARKS et al. in view of NORIZUKI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,888,103). Claim 7 has been canceled. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claim 7 is now moot.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PARKS et al. Claims 8 and 13-15 have been canceled. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claims 8 and 13-15 is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-3.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the proposed amendment is proper for entry since it merely cancels rejected claims, leaving only allowed claims pending, and it is also submitted that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in each of claims 1-3.

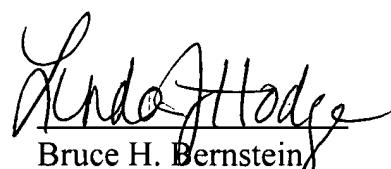
Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

P21566.A09

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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